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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 22 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, I have honour to transmit the text of a memorandum of the Republic of Kazakhstan entitled "On the holding of a conference on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia".

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, and of the Security Council.

I should like to take this occasion to inform you that on 29 and 30 March 1993 a meeting of experts from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Asian States will be held in Alma Ata on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia. Invitations to the meeting of experts have been sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, India, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Turkey, Japan, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Australia, and also to representatives of the United Nations and the secretariat of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Most of the countries referred to support the proposal for the holding of a conference in Alma Ata.

(Signed) Akmaral K. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative

Annex

MEMORANDUM OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN ON THE HOLDING OF A CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA

In his address to the forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, put forward a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening international security and confidence, the effective exercise of preventive diplomacy in the maintenance of international peace and stability, and active use of the potentials of regional cooperation. He devoted special attention to the creation of a system of security and cooperation on the Asian continent. For these purposes, it was proposed that a conference be held on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia.

The report of the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, entitled "An Agenda for Peace", stresses the need to reinforce the role of interregional cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of stability and the strengthening of cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations. It emphasized the need for more active participation by regional organizations in preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building, which would contribute to regional and, in the long run, global stability. This entails the more active use of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

The idea of the conference on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia gained the support of the Secretary-General. Kazakhstan's initiative was endorsed by the participants in the meeting of the leaders of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, held in Ashkhabad in May 1992. The heads of the States participating in the Ashkhabad meeting emphasized that the establishment of a collective security system in Asia would serve the purpose of more effectively ensuring lasting peace and stability in the region. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs were instructed in the joint declaration on the results of the meeting to consider the possibility of convening a conference on this question.

The proposals by the President of Kazakhstan were received favourably in CSCE circles and met with understanding and a positive response on the part of the representatives of the foreign-policy departments of China, Egypt, India, Jordan and other Asian countries.

In proposing the establishment of a collective-security system in Asia similar to the CSCE, Kazakhstan believes that the States of the continent have an equal interest in durable and lasting peace and stability. The level of their economic development, and the structures and complementarity of their economies provide great opportunities for mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation.

The main areas of cooperation could be the following:

- Promotion of peace, stability and security and strengthening of confidence-building measures in Asia;

- Cooperation in the economic and scientific and technical fields, as well as in the field of environmental protection;

- Cooperation in the social and humanitarian fields.

The main principles of cooperation could be:

- Non-use of force or the threat of force;

- Peaceful settlement of disputes;

- Territorial integrity of States;

- Inviolability of existing borders;

- Sovereign right;

- Non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

- Equality and the right of peoples to determine their own destiny;

- Inter-State cooperation;

- Respect for human rights;

- Scrupulous compliance with international obligations.

These principles of cooperation are based on the Charter of the United Nations and other fundamental documents adopted by the United Nations. In addition to these traditional principles for promoting all-Asian interaction, Kazakhstan intends to propose some new approaches, outlined in the proposals made by President Nazarbaev:

- The principle of genuinely preventive measures to ensure the timely elimination of the economic and social causes of potential political and military-political conflicts;

- The principle of the early detection of emerging conflicts with a view to settling them without the use of force long before they escalate into an armed confrontation;

- The principle of the primacy of methods based on incentives rather than coercion in the settlement of conflicts.

The permanent missions of States to the United Nations could contribute, within the framework of the Organization's activities, to the realization of the idea of the conference on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia. To this end, an exchange of views on specific proposals and considerations on

the subject could be held at the level of permanent representatives of all States interested in stability and prosperity in Asia.

The following matters could be discussed:

1. The holding of regular meetings of permanent representatives of the States interested in prosperity and stability in Asia to exchange views and proposals on the subject;

2. Advocacy of the idea among all other States Members of the United Nations;

3. Coordination of efforts to promote, in the General Assembly, the idea of establishing the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia.

The first meeting of the permanent representatives of all interested States to discuss the issues raised in this memorandum could be held on 30 March 1993 at the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York.